

ASSISTANT COUNTY SOIL SCIENTIST

GENERAL DEFINITION OF WORK:

FLSA Status: Non-Exempt

Performs responsible professional and administrative work conducting high intensity soil mapping and maintaining data for publication; does related work as required. Work is performed under regular supervision. Supervision is exercised over subordinate personnel.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS/TYPICAL TASKS:

Conducting high intensity soil mapping; evaluating soils; advising the public; maintaining records and files; preparing reports.

(These are intended only as illustrations of the various types of work performed. The omission of specific duties does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related, or a logical assignment to the position.)

- Produces high intensity, detailed soil maps; identifies geomorphic features in the field and correlates with appropriate soil series and map unit, based on field observation, aerial photograph and topographic map interpretation; develops new series and map units for previously unidentified soil-landscape segments; classifies soil series based on USDA Soil Taxonomy.
- Completes the official soil survey update of Fauquier County, including certification through National Cooperative Soil Survey procedures; prepares and submits soil maps for finishing by USDA digital map finishing units; writes technical soil descriptions for soil survey manuscript; collects and prepares soil information for entry in the USDA National Survey Information Systems (NASIS) to generate soil interpretations and performance tables for the soil survey manuscript.
- Writes staff reports analyzing site plans for appropriate use of environmentally sensitive areas, problem areas for development, based on detailed soil maps.
- Provides highly technical information concerning soil performance and alternative solutions for soil problem areas to engineers, consultants, archeologist, geologists and agricultural agencies; provides managers and landowners with information on best management practices for both agricultural and urban uses.
- Provides soil maps, technical and soil performance information to landowners, managers and others; generates soil maps with County GIS.
- Manages County's soil interpretive guide, including maintenance of existing information and population of new soil map units and the development of new data elements, as required.
- Classifies streams as part of soil survey and the public reservoir management overlay district.
- Assists landowners, managers and developers with the protection, enhancement and creation of wetlands.
- Conducts erosion and sediment control inspections on single family dwellings.
- Provides education programs on basic soil properties, soil interpretations and uses, soil protection, use of soil surveys, geology, geomorphology, training of local environmental teams for state and national competitions.
- Works with local Virginia Health Department office, providing advice on problem lots for wastewater disposal.
- Investigates complaints concerning land application of bio-solids.
- Performs related tasks as required.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

Thorough knowledge of soils and their formation, classification and use; thorough knowledge of various building construction and appropriate soil requirements; ability to evaluate soil data and to read plats and blueprints of proposed construction; ability to prepare and present technical reports both orally and in writing; ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with associates and the general public.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

Any combination of education and experience equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with major course work in soil science or related field and some soil mapping experience.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:

This is heavy work requiring the exertion of 100 pounds of force occasionally, up to 50 pounds of force frequently, and up to 20 pounds of force constantly to move objects; work requires climbing, balancing, stooping, kneeling, crawling, reaching, standing, walking, pushing, pulling, lifting, fingering, grasping, and repetitive motions; vocal communication is required for expressing or exchanging ideas by means of the spoken word; hearing is required to perceive information at normal spoken word levels; visual acuity is required for depth perception, color perception, preparing and analyzing written or computer data, visual inspection involving small defects and/or small parts, use of measuring devices, operation of machines, operation of motor vehicles or equipment, determining the accuracy and thoroughness of work, and observing general surroundings and activities; the worker is subject to inside and outside environmental conditions, extreme heat, hazards, and atmospheric conditions.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential tasks.

Possession of an appropriate driver's license valid in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Possession of or ability to obtain Virginia Professional Soil Scientist certificate within two years of employment.

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